

## Claims:

1. A method for making a prognosis of disease course in a human patient having cancer comprising detecting infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) wherein infiltration by plasmacytoid dendritic cells is prognostic of the aggressiveness and mortality of the cancer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises the steps of (a) obtaining a sample of a tumor from the human cancer patient; and (b) detecting infiltration of the tumor sample by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC).
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said detecting comprises testing for specific pDC markers.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said specific pDC markers are selected from the group consisting of CD123 and BDCA2.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein said detecting comprises testing for secondary pDC markers.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said secondary pDC markers are selected from the group consisting of type 1 IFN and MXA.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting of infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) comprises testing for specific pDC markers in the circulating blood.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the specific pDC markers are selected from the group consisting of CD123 and BDCA2.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting of infiltration of a tumor by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) comprises testing for secondary pDC markers in the circulating blood.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said secondary pDC markers are selected from the group consisting of type 1 IFN and MXA.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the cancer is primary breast cancer.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the cancer is primary invasive, non-metastatic breast cancer.